

CLAIMS

1. A relay tracker circuit for counting clicks of a plurality of relays on a load board, the relay tracker circuit comprising:

a controller including a counter for counting relay clicks of the plurality of relays;

a plurality of wires connecting the controller to the relays, wherein each time a relay switches, a signal is transmitted from the relay to the controller and the controller increments a counter therefor; and

a memory connected to the counter for storing the count information for each relay.

2. The relay tracker circuit of claim 1, wherein each relay is allocated about four bytes of space in the memory.

3. The relay tracker circuit of claim 1, wherein the memory comprises RAM.

4. The relay tracker circuit of claim 3, wherein the RAM is integral with the controller.

5. The relay tracker circuit of claim 4, wherein the memory further comprises EEPROM.

6. The relay tracker circuit of claim 5, wherein the EEPROM is integral with the controller.

7. The relay tracker circuit of claim 6, wherein the count information is stored in the RAM while the load board is connected to a test head.

8. The relay tracker circuit of claim 7, further comprising a capacitor connected to the controller for providing power to the controller when the controller is disconnected from the test head.

9. The relay tracker circuit of claim 8, wherein the count information is moved from the RAM to the EEPROM when the load board is disconnected from the test head.

10. The relay tracker circuit of claim 1, wherein the plurality of wires comprise conductive traces.

11. A load board for applying simulated loads from a test system to one or more devices under test (DUTS), the load board comprising:

- a plurality of conductive traces for transmitting signals from the test system to the DUTS;

- a plurality of relays connected to the plurality of traces for performing signal switching; and

- an embedded relay tracker circuit connected to the plurality of relays for counting relay clicks and generating and storing relay usage information.

12. The load board of claim 11, wherein the embedded relay tracker circuit includes an interface for connecting the tracker circuit to a computer and passing the relay usage information to the computer for display.

13. The load board of claim 11, wherein the embedded relay tracker circuit includes:

- a controller including a counter for counting relay clicks of the plurality of relays;

a plurality of wires connecting the controller to the relays, wherein each time a relay switches, a signal is transmitted from the relay to the controller and the controller increments a counter therefor; and

a memory connected to the counter for storing the count information for each relay.

14. The load board of claim 13, wherein each relay is allocated about four bytes of space in the memory.

15. The load board of claim 13, wherein the memory comprises RAM.

16. The load board of claim 15, wherein the memory further comprises EEPROM.

17. The load board of claim 16, wherein the RAM and the EEPROM are integral with the controller.

18. The load board of claim 17, wherein the count information is stored in the RAM while the load board is connected to a test head.

19. The load board of claim 18, further comprising a capacitor connected to the controller for providing power to the controller when the load board is disconnected from a power source.

20. The load board of claim 19, wherein the count information is moved from the RAM to the EEPROM when the load board is disconnected from the test head.